

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of selecting symbols on a display, the method comprising:

receiving a video signal that comprises closed caption data, wherein the closed caption data includes a plurality of symbols;

displaying the closed caption data on the display;

storing at least portion of the closed caption data in a buffer;

receiving, via an input device, first control instructions to maintain the displayed closed caption data on the display until the occurrence of a selected event, wherein the selected event is one of: receipt of second control instructions to resume the display of the closed captioned data in the video signal, the passage of a predetermined amount of time, or receipt of third control instructions requesting the selection of at least one of the symbols;

receiving, via the input device, the third control instructions to select at least one of the symbols;

highlighting the selected symbols on the display; and

transmitting, via a network, the selected symbols to a shared database system that is external to the display.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the input device is hand held.

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic device, comprising:

an input device for receiving control instructions from a user; and

a controller for receiving and displaying a video signal that comprises closed caption data, wherein the closed caption data includes a plurality of symbols, wherein in response to receiving first control instructions from a user, the controller maintains a selected portion of the closed caption data on the television display until the occurrence of a selected event, wherein the selected event is either: receipt of second control instructions to resume the display of the closed caption data in the video signal, the

passage of a predetermined amount of time, or receipt of third control instructions requesting the selection of at least one of the symbols, wherein, in response to receiving, via the input device, the third control instructions to select at least one of the symbols, the controller highlights the selected symbols on the television display, and wherein the controller is configured to transmit the selected symbols to a shared database system that is external to the electronic device.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Presented) An electronic device of Claim 3, wherein the database system is an Internet search engine.

6. (Previously Presented) An electronic device of Claim 3, wherein the input device is hand-held.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of selecting symbols on a display, the method comprising:

receiving a video signal that comprises data, wherein the data includes a plurality of symbols;

displaying one or more of the symbols, wherein the displayed symbols are selectable by a user on a symbol-by-symbol basis;

in response to a user request, maintaining one or more of the displayed symbols on the display;

in response to a user request, selecting one or more of the displayed symbols on the display; and

transmitting, via a network, the selected symbols to a shared database system.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the database system is an Internet search engine.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 7, additionally comprising:

searching the database system for information based at least in part upon the selected symbols; and

displaying the results of the search.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 7, additionally comprising transmitting the selected symbols over the Internet to a remote computer.

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11. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the video signal is digital.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7, additionally comprising highlighting the selected symbols on the display.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 7, additionally comprising transmitting the selected symbols to an external device.
14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the external device is an information retrieval system.
15. (Original) The method of Claim 7, additionally comprising storing at least a portion of the received video signal in a buffer.
16. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the video signal is in accordance with the EIA/CEA-608-B standard.
17. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the video signal is in accordance with the EIA-708-B standard.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein the user initiates the request to select the symbols by identifying a location on the display.
19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the symbols are selected by determining which of the symbols in the video signal is displayed at the identified location.
20. (Currently Amended) An electronic device, comprising:
 - an interface for receiving control instructions from a user; and
 - a controller for receiving and displaying a video signal that comprises data, wherein the data includes a plurality of symbols, wherein in response to receiving first control instructions from a user, the controller maintains at least some of the symbols on the display, wherein the controller receives second control instructions to select one or more of the symbols on the display, and the electronic device is configured to transmit the selected symbols to a shared database system that is external to the electronic device.
21. (Cancelled).
22. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 20, wherein the database system is an Internet search engine.
23. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 20, wherein the database system performs the acts of:

searching for information based at least in portion upon the selected symbols; and automatically displaying the results of the search.

24. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 20, wherein the video signal is digital.

25. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 20, wherein the electronic device transmits the elected symbols over the Internet to a computer.

26. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 20, wherein the electronic device highlights the selected symbols on a display.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 20, wherein the controller stores at least a portion of the received video signal in a buffer.

29. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 20, wherein the user initiates the request to select the symbols by identifying a location on the television display.

30. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of Claim 29, wherein the symbols are selected by determining which symbols are displayed at the identified location.

31. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting symbols on a display, the system comprising:

means for receiving a video signal that comprises data, wherein the data includes a plurality of symbols;

means for displaying the data;

means, responsive to a user request, for maintaining a selected portion of the data on the display; means, responsive to a user request, for selecting at least a portion of one of the symbols on the display; and

means for transmitting the selected symbols to a shared database system that is external to the system.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 31, additionally comprising:

means for searching the database system, wherein the selected symbols are used as keywords of the search; and

means for automatically displaying the results of the search.

34. (Original) The system of Claim 31, additionally comprising means for transmitting the selected symbols over the Internet to a computer.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 31, additionally comprising means for highlighting the selected symbols on the display.

36. (Original) The system of Claim 31, additionally comprising means for transmitting the selected symbols to an external device.

37. (Original) The system of Claim 36, wherein the external device is an information retrieval system.

38. (Original) The system of Claim 31, additionally comprising means for storing at least a portion of the received video signal in a buffer.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 31, wherein the user initiates the request to select the symbols by identifying a location on the display.

40. (Original) The system of Claim 39, wherein the symbols are selected by determining which of the words in the video signal is displayed at the identified location.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the network is wireless.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein the network is wireless.

43. (Previously Presented) the device of Claim 20, further comprising a television.

44. (Previously Presented) the device of Claim 31, further comprising a television.

45. (New) The method of Claim 1, additionally comprising formatting the selected symbols for transmission to the shared database system.

46. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein formatting the selected symbols comprises removing selected symbols from a buffer.

47. (New) The method of Claim 46, wherein the selected symbols are control codes.

48. (New) The method of Claim 1, additionally comprising invoking a viewing program for displaying data returned by the shared database system.

49. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the viewing program comprises an Internet browser.

50. (New) The method of Claim 7, additionally comprising formatting the selected symbols for transmission to the shared database system.

51. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein formatting the selected symbols comprises removing selected symbols from a buffer.

52. (New) The method of Claim 51, wherein the selected symbols are control codes.

53. (New) The method of Claim 7, additionally comprising invoking a viewing program for displaying data returned by the shared database system.

54. (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein the viewing program comprises an Internet browser.

55. (New) The device of Claim 20, wherein the electronic device formats the selected symbols for transmission to the shared database system.

56. (New) The device of Claim 20, additionally comprising a buffer and wherein the electronic device removes selected symbols from the buffer.

57. (New) The device of Claim 56, wherein the selected symbols are control codes.

58. (New) The device of Claim 20, wherein the electronic device invokes a viewing program for displaying data returned by the shared database system.

59. (New) The device of Claim 58, wherein the viewing program comprises an Internet browser.

60. (New) The system of Claim 31, wherein the system formats the selected symbols for transmission to the shared database system.

61. (New) The system of Claim 31, additionally comprising a buffer and wherein the system removes selected symbols from the buffer.

62. (New) The system of Claim 61, wherein the selected symbols are control codes.

63. (New) The system of Claim 31, wherein the system invokes a viewing program for displaying data returned by the shared database system.

64. (New) The system of Claim 63, wherein the viewing program comprises an Internet browser.